



Contact: Nancy Benecki, Public Information Officer
(201) 460-4662 nancy.benecki@njmeadowlands.gov

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\$1 Million Allocated By NJMC For Shared Services Among 14 Towns

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The Board of Commissioners for the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission today allocated \$1 million to develop and implement a new shared services and equipment program among its 14 constituent municipalities.

“Following Governor Corzine’s directive to help municipalities in New Jersey run more efficiently and use taxpayers’ dollars more effectively, sharing municipal services is one of the best ways to streamline government operations and reduce costs and property taxes,” said NJMC Chairwoman and New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Susan Bass Levin. “The Department of Community Affairs is working to encourage local governments to find ways to share resources, and this program by a key regional agency gives the towns and school boards in the Meadowlands District an early boost and added resources for reaping the benefits of working together and providing services all residents need.”

The NJMC allocated \$1 million from the Meadowlands Area Grants for Natural and Economic Transformation (MAGNET) program to provide seed money to implement a shared services and equipment program. The guidelines for the distribution of these funds will be presented to the NJMC’s Board of Commissioners for approval upon the completion of the IMS study.

“Every municipality in New Jersey is facing a budget crisis, so we must develop more ways to help the towns in the Meadowlands District reduce costs and property taxes with increased fiscal and operational efficiency,” said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio. “We are uniquely positioned to provide a model that can lead the way to serious property tax relief across the state, led by local officials and their best ideas.”

MAGNET is the NJMC’s five-year financial plan that earmarks potential funding sources for programs for the 14 Meadowlands District municipalities, environmental programs, economic development and capital improvement. Through MAGNET and its Municipal Assistance Program, the NJMC has provided millions of dollars in grants to the towns in the Meadowlands to help stabilize municipal property taxes, purchase equipment, fund repairs and prevent flooding. Through this funding, the NJMC purchased vehicles to establish an equipment vehicle pool in the Meadowlands.

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